

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

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UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0292

FOR: IBS COVERAGE DESK, AFRICAN DIVISION

IAA, IPS AF BRANCH, IOR/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HAL SINGER QUARTET

1. A DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE OF 800 SPECTATORS ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED THE HAL SINGER QUARTET AT THEIR FIRST TANANARIVE PERFORMANCE MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 23.

2. THE CONCERT SPONSORED BY THE MALAGASY RED CROSS AND THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER TOOK PLACE AT THE MODERN AND SPACIOUS AMPEFILOHA (PRONOUNCE: AM-PAY-FEE-LOO) HALL LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN TANANARIVE NOT FAR FROM THE MADAGASCAR HILTON HOTEL.

3. MRS. CELINE RATSIRAKA, WIFE OF MADAGASCAR'S HEAD OF STATE AND HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE MALAGASY RED CROSS - UNDER WHOSE REPRESENTED AT LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE BY THE MALAGASY MINISTER OF HEALTH, MR. JEAN-JACQUES SERAPHIN.

4. IN BRIEF INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, MRS. REALLON, ACTIVE PRESIDENT OF THE MALAGASY RED CROSS SINCE 1956, THANKED HAL SINGER AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND THE AMERICAN CULTURAL

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CENTER FOR HAVING MADE THE CONCERT POSSIBLE. SHE ALSO

THANKED MINISTER SERAPHIN AND THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE. THE PROCEEDS OF THE CONCERT WERE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RED CROSS. THE PRICE OF THE ENTRANCE TICKET WAS 500 MALAGASY FRANCS (\$2.50).

5. SEVERAL OTHER CABINET MINISTERS, THE GOVERNOR OF TANANARIVE, LT. COL. REMI VICTORIEN RATSIMBAZAFY AND A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND WIVES ATTENDED THE AUDIENCE AND SHARED IN THE WARM APPLAUSE THAT MARKED NOT ONLY THE PERFORMANCE OF EVERY PIECE IN LAST NIGHT'S REPERTORY (ELLINGTON, GERSHWIN, KOSMA, SINGER, HORACE SILVER) BUT ALSO THE SOLO PARTS OF HAL SINGER, ALAIN JEAN-MARIE (PIANO), GUS NEMETH (BASS) AND OLIVER JOHNSON (DRUMS).

6. HAL SINGER'S SECOND AND LAST PERFORMANCE IN TANANARIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW WEDNESDAY EVENING AT THE SAME AMPHITHEATER. ALL TICKETS (200 FMG-\$1) HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RED CROSS ALSO.

7. TODAY'S MADAGASCAR MATIN, TANANARIVE'S LARGEST DAILY, PUBLISHED THREE PICTURES FROM LAST NIGHT'S CONCERT AND IN A FIRST-PAGE REPORTAGE WRITES:

"LE PREMIER CONCERT DONNE PAR LE FAMEUX QUARTET DE JAZZ DIRIGE PAR LE NON MOINS CELEBRE SAXOPHONISTE HAL SINGER DONT LA REPUTATION INTERNATIONALE ET AFRICAINE N'EST PLUS A FAIRE, A DRAINE HIER AU COMPLEXE SCOLAIRE D'AMPEFILOHA, UNE FOULE AVIDE DE NOUVEAUTE.

...POUR TOUT DIRE SUR CETTE PREMIERE REPRESENTATION, CELA A ETE UN FRANC SUCCES... PROFANES ET CONNAISSEURS ETAIENT COTE A COTE POUR APPLAUDIR HAL SINGER AU SAXO, GUS NEMETH A LA BASSE, ALAIN JEAN-MARIE AU PIANO ET OLIVIER JOHNSON A LA BATTERIE.

LA VIRTUOSITE DE HAL SINGER, LE SENS DU RYTHME DE SES ACCOMPAGNATEURS A FAIT LA JOIE DE TOUS. ET DANS LES MORCEAUX CLASSIQUES DU JAZZ DE TOUT TEMPS, COMME DANS LES MORCEAUX MODERNES MARQUES PAR LE RENAISSANCE DU RYTHME AFRICAIN, L'ON SENTAIT QUE HAL SINGER AVAIT SU TROUVER LE STYLE ORIGINAL. CE STYLE QUI PERMET A UN MUSICIEN DE JAZZ DE PERCER. LE PUBLIC N'A PAS ETE INSENSIBLE AUX INTERPRETATIONS OU L'ON A SU ALLIER LE CLASSIQUE AU MODERNE, SANS TOUTEFOIS SE DEPAR-
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TIR DE CETTE VOLONTE D'ETRE UN MUSICIEN DE JAZZ DANS LE SENS PLEIN DU MOT..."

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